

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

S E C R E T STATE 014707

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN SITUATION

REF: STATE 8082

1. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN IN REFTEL THE TEXT OF THE
DEPARTMENT'S RECENT STATEMENT ON ITALY. FOLLOWING HIS
CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON, AMBASSADOR GARDNER HAS
RETURNED TO ROME WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE CLEAR, WITHIN
THE LIMITS OF THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY OF STRICT NONINTER-
VENTION IN ITALIAN INTERNAL POLITICAL MATTERS, THAT WE
BELIEVE ALLIANCE INTERESTS WILL BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY

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COMMUNIST BEHAVIOR SHOULD THEIR ROLE IN THE GOVERNING
PROCESS BE ENLARGED.

2. WE HAVE FURTHER TAKEN STEPS TO SOUND OUT THE VIEWS OF
OUR KEY EUROPEAN ALLIES AND COORDINATE ON THE ITALIAN

SITUATION. SO FAR THESE DIRECT APPROACHES HAVE BEEN

LIMITED TO LONDON, PARIS AND BONN.

3. GIVEN PM THORN'S INTEREST IN AND KNOWLEDGE OF ITALIAN DEVELOPMENTS AND HIS CREDENTIALS AS A EUROPEAN STATESMAN, WE BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO APPROACH HIM AS WELL.

ACCORDINGLY, UNLESS YOU BELIEVE IT INAPPROPRIATE, YOU SHOULD APPROACH THE PRIME MINISTER AND

-- INFORM HIM THE US GOVERNMENT IS CONSULTING WITH ITS EUROPEAN ALLIES ON THE ITALIAN SITUATION;

-- INFORM HIM OF GARDNER'S INSTRUCTIONS;

-- OBTAIN HIS IMPRESSION OF THE PROSPECTS IN ITALY AND THE SIGNIFICANCE FOR EUROPE AND THE ALLIANCE;

-- ASSUMING HE VIEWS THE SITUATION MUCH AS WE DO, ASK WHAT HE BELIEVES MIGHT USEFULLY BE DONE BY LUXEMBOURG ALONE, THROUGH THE EC OR IN PARTY-TO-PARTY CONTACTS.

4. FYI. IN OUR ANALYSIS, IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT ANDREOTTI WILL SUCCEED IN PUTTING TOGETHER ANOTHER GOVERNMENT ON A COMPROMISE BASIS, WITH FURTHER CONCESSIONS TO THE COMMUNISTS, AND THEREBY AVOID NEW ELECTIONS. THE BASIC TREND IN FAVOR OF GREATER COMMUNIST
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PARTICIPATION WILL NOT HAVE BEEN HALTED, HOWEVER, AND FORMAL PARTICIPATION IS POSSIBLE. END FYI. CHRISTOPHER

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